

2024 IESA CHEER COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

March 6, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

The following members were present for the meeting: Jackie Litwiller (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Angie Wilmington, Official; Claudia DeSantis, Coach, Lemont Old Quarry; Kati Winkle, Coach, Normal Parkside; Jon Haws, Administrator, Normal Metcalf and Susie Knoblauch (IHSA Assistant Executive Director/Cheer). Brian Allen, Coach and Joni Fultz, Coach, O'Fallon Carriel were on virtually.

The IESA Cheer Advisory Committee, in its meeting on March 6, 2024, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors in the April meeting:

Recommendation 1- Cheer (Name and Description)

Current	Cheer
Proposed	Game Day Cheer
Rationale	Create the Game Day Cheer Division to reflect a sideline/halftime routine that would be performed at the school. Develop criteria that would reflect and explain the Game Day Cheer judging. Criteria: 1:15 minute time limit for entire performance. Athletes will enter side or back corner (similar to a timeout in basketball) All skills (stunts, pyramids, jumps, tumbling) must be performed inside the competition area. Props must be carried on/off the competition area similar to a basketball timeout. Props may NOT be set up in advance. Objects cannot be thrown/placed outside the competition area. MUST INCLUDE BOTH a cheer and a chant. Poms and Signs MUST BE USED. Megaphones / Flags / Mascot are optional but encouraged. A mascot would count as a member of the squad. NO MUSIC allowed during the Game Day Cheer Division. NO tosses (sponge or basket). One Division (squads with 5 – 25 members).
Cheer T&C	Section II – B. Divisions
IESA By-law	
Admin Vote	4-0 in favor
Board Action	Approved

Recommendation 2 – Routine Divisions (Rebranding)

Current	Schools are currently allowed to pick the division based on squad size. Small Routine (5-12 members) Medium Routine (13-16 members) Large Routine (17-25 members)
Proposed	Divide schools up by enrollment using the 3 Class System IESA has in place. Create the Routine Divisions into 1A Routine, 2A Routine, 3A Routine. In all 3 divisions teams can have between 5-25 squad members.
Rationale	This would eliminate the changing of the divisions and predetermine which division the school would be in. All other IESA activities are divided this way. This would also eliminate the need for B. Divisions Number 3 - No changes in division are allowed after the date specified in the season calendar - as of this date, schools have to participate in the division for which they registered with

only the maximum number allowed for that division category. It would also alter the wording in B. Division Number 4 - It is not permissible to participate in a division with more squad members than the division allows.

Cheer T&C Section II – B. Divisions 2. Routine Division
IESA By-law
Admin Vote 4-0 in favor
Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 3 – Awards

Current The number of awards presented will be based on the actual number of teams participating in each division on the day of the competition. The following formula will be used when presenting awards:

- i. 1-9 teams entered in a given division - championship trophy and medals.
- ii. 10-19 teams entered in a given division - 1st and 2nd place trophies and medals
- iii. 20 or more teams entered in a division - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies and medals

Proposed All 4 divisions receive a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophy and medals regardless of number of schools enrolled in the division.

Rationale This would allow teams to know going in how many awards are being distributed and would not change year to year.

Cheer T&C Section IV. – After Competition 1. Awards
IESA By-law
Admin Vote 4-0 in favor
Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 4 – Awards

Current All teams in a division are called to the competition mat - the bottom 50% are announced as Honorable Mention and the top 50% are announced by place.

Proposed All teams in the division are called to the mat, only the top 3 are announced in reverse order.

Rationale This is part of the excitement, not knowing who is in the top 3 and then getting the school called. By the time you read everyone else's name, the element of surprise is gone.

Cheer T&C Section IV. – After Competition 1. Awards b.
IESA By-law
Admin Vote 4 – 0 in favor
Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 5 – Awards

Current Within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the awards ceremony, coaches can pick up their school's results packet from the IESA staff member in the designated area.

Proposed Within 1 hour of the competition a pdf. of the results will be emailed to the head coach. Coaches can email the IESA Cheer Administrator within 48 hours of the event for clarification.

Rationale There is no need to print out a create a packet for each team, coaches would prefer a digital version of the results. Also eliminate the judges will be available afterwards.

Cheer T&C Section IV. – After Competition 1. Awards 2.
IESA By-law
Admin Vote 4 – 0 in favor
Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 6 – Awards 2b.

Current	2b. A tech judge will be available in Room 134 to answer questions from the coach regarding technical safety deductions. No discussion regarding changing the judges' scores will be heard. A coach will have approximately 15 minutes where a tech judge will be available to discuss why a team was assigned a deduction.
Proposed	The head coach will have 48 hours to email the IESA Cheer administrator for clarification on scoring.
Rationale	There is no other competition in which the coaches have access to the judges or officials for clarification after the conclusion of the contest.
Cheer T&C IESA By-law	Section IV. – After Competition 1. Awards 2b.
Admin Vote	4 – 0 in favor
Board Action	Approved

Additional discussion:

1. **Creating a qualifier for the teams coming to state** - tabled, may happen in the future but not at this time. Possibly having a preliminary round and a final round in the future.
2. **Consider changes to the routine rubric** - define Majority (half plus one), deductions.
3. **Consider venue change** - (discussion about Civic Center - lighting, equipment, concessions – what other options are available within the parameters of the Civic Center – arena, theater).
4. **Digital Ticketing Option**
5. **Live Streaming** – copyright / music compliance issues were discussed.
6. **IESA State Final signage added to the backdrop discussed.**
7. **All Star Cheerleaders performing with their schools** - IESA allows student athletes to participate in non-school affiliated teams in all activities while participating in IESA activity.
8. **Change Cheer back to two divisions** – tabled, perhaps in the future if that division grows.
9. **Virtual Coaches Meeting** – this is something that can be added a week or two out from the competition.
10. **Eliminate the need for a Division Change Deadline** - if the Routine Divisions are based on enrollment there would not be a need for this.
11. **Coaches passes** – add a 3rd coaches pass – entry forms allow for 3 coaches to be listed.
12. **Warm-up time clarified** – on the day of competition, each squad will have 10 minutes on the tumbling mat, 10 minutes on the full mat for a total of 20 minutes and will be in the designated warm-up area.
13. **State Final Venue Wording** – anywhere the Civic Center or exhibit hall is mentioned use the term State Final Venue instead.
14. **Music Wording** – change the wording of available to downloaded on a digital device (in drop box is not downloaded).

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – virtual.